

## AROUND THE COLLIERIES.

Mr. Samuel Gompers has been re-elected president of the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. J. MacGillivray, receiver for the Inverness Railway and Coal Co., and Mr. John Moffatt, of the P. W. A., were in town recently on separate days. Briquette making, as the Record predicted in a whisper, has turned out a failure in Nova Scotia, as in the United States. Too costly.

The Acadia Coal Co. is making heroic efforts to give employment to as many as possible of the men thrown idle by the fire at the Drummond. It is believed that places can be made for about two hundred of them, a hundred and twenty, say, at the Albion and McGregor and eighty at the Allan Mines. This addition to the working force should add quite a bit to the December output.

People who are unreasonable as to the slowness of the coal companies in supplying the demand seem to forget that these are war times, with a shortage of labor. There has been no famine. The real trouble was that a majority of householders wanted to stock their cellars at the one time. The companies did all in their power to supply immediate needs. The situation will gradually be relieved from this out.

The output of the Dominion Coal Co.'s collieries for last month was remarkably good, being 81,000 tons ahead of that for Nov., 1913, and 21,000 ahead of that for November last year. The shipments from Springfield will be two or three thousand tons less than for November of last year. As a whole the collieries of the big company are doing splendidly.

There's life in—and long years for—Stellarton yet. For years it has been supposed, founded on reports of geologists that Stellarton had four principal seams of coal, namely the Ford, the Cage, the Third and the McGregor. The Stellarton coal seam was not taken into consideration. Evidently some one had doubts as to the correctness of the enumeration. At any rate the officials of the Acadia caused a bore hole to be sunk at the sixth level of the McGregor Mine. After the bore had gone down fifty feet coal was struck, and not a small seam either but one to brag of, its thickness being twenty feet, and better still all good coal at that, judged by the cores. There was no trace of the seam being found near the surface. In order to trace it up to where it has least cover a series of bore holes may be necessary. As this is the first big find since the new general manager took hold it might not be fitting to say "Another for Hector," while it will be proper to say "One for Hector." Meantime the Record, should it have occasion to refer to this encouraging discovery, will refer to it as the "Hector" seam. The name at any rate will not be disputed by the highlanders of Pictou Co.

The chief event in sporting circles last week was the challenge of the editor of the Mining Record to the new superintendent of the Allan Mine. The editor challenged Maleom to produce from the shaft a thousand tons a day by the 31st of next August. The challenge was promptly accepted, with two conditions: (1) that there be a sufficient supply of labor, and (2) that the coal be all taken away. Some experts think the Record man need not worry. He himself, however, knowing the gait of and the "go" in the Super is not so sure about that.

President Fergie, of the Intercolonial Coal Co., arrived in Westville last week from Montreal.

Everything is going smoothly so far at the Drummond Mine. The section in which the fire is located will be filled with water in a day or two. Of course the water will be allowed to remain in the district for a time before there is any attempt at reopening. The occasion of the fire at the Drummond Mine is still unknown. There are those who think it may not be a case of spontaneous combustion, but all present opinions are subject to revision.

It is held that there was an explosion immediately preceding or succeeding the breaking out of the fire at the Drummond. The perplexing point is that there should have been fire noticed at the third or lower point. It is held that the explosion was slight, making no greater damage than might have occurred from a windy or blown out shot.

Mr. Cadwallader Evans' friends will be interested to know, that he has, (Dec. 1) been appointed to the newly created position of Assistant General Superintendent of the Delaware & Hudson Co. The General Supt. is the operating head of the Company—there being no General Manager, and under his direction Mr. Evans is to have charge of the installation of modern mining methods and machinery in all of the Company's Collieries. These include about 20 plants for washing and screening called "breakers" served with coal from something over 60 distinct mines of all kinds—slopes—drifts and shafts and producing about 8,000,000 tons per year.

His particular job at present is the introduction of machine mining by electric undercutters such as he had experience with in Western Pennsylvania. Twenty-five are already ordered for immediate use, so these will keep him reasonably busy, as men must be trained to operate them and the mine officials must be educated to look after them. The Company has heretofore done no machine mining.

Many of the seams now being worked are quite thin 24 to 32 inches and in these the Co.'y. proposes to install the longwall systems with face conveyers and mining machines. The Company is also introducing machinery for lifting rock in the Gangways and all this new work is under Mr. Evans' direct charge.

There's just one person you can fool all your time. You can't fool the public, nor God, nor your family, nor the children, but you can fool yourself every day in the week.—Cora Harris, in the New York Independent.